

Restricted Use of Electronic Cigarettes with Oxygen Therapy

Within several EIGA Documents, including EIGA Doc 89 *Medical Oxygen Systems for Homecare Supply* and EIGA Doc 158 *Good Homecare Practice*, it is stated that patients shall never smoke when using oxygen.

The reason is that oxygen will support combustion. There have been a number of incidents involving patients smoking while being administered oxygen in the homecare environment and this has resulted in a number of fires leading to serious injuries and in some cases death.

Many patients are undergoing oxygen treatment due to smoking related diseases and some of them continue to smoke whilst undergoing such oxygen treatment. EIGA members are continuously reinforcing the message that smoking is incompatible with the use of oxygen.

Latest innovations in smoking cessation programmes have led to the introduction of so called “electronic cigarettes” or “E-smokers”. These work on the principle of a heating element that vaporizes a liquid solution which delivers nicotine.

Some reports in the media are mentioning the ignition of the electronic cigarette when patients were undergoing oxygen therapy.

As a result, and to align with the existing safety guidelines related to smoking and energy source, electronic cigarettes shall not be used or charged in the vicinity of a patient undergoing oxygen therapy or the oxygen source itself.

Documents relating to oxygen therapy at home shall be amended at the next revision to reflect the above guidance.

DISCLAIMER

All technical publications of EIGA or under EIGA's name, including Codes of practice, Safety procedures and any other technical information contained in such publications were obtained from sources believed to be reliable and are based on technical information and experience currently available from members of EIGA and others at the date of their issuance.

While EIGA recommends reference to or use of its publications by its members, such reference to or use of EIGA's publications by its members or third parties are purely voluntary and not binding. Therefore, EIGA or its members make no guarantee of the results and assume no liability or responsibility in connection with the reference to or use of information or suggestions contained in EIGA's publications.

EIGA has no control whatsoever as regards, performance or non-performance, misinterpretation, proper or improper use of any information or suggestions contained in EIGA's publications by any person or entity (including EIGA members) and EIGA expressly disclaims any liability in connection thereto.

EIGA's publications are subject to periodic review and users are cautioned to obtain the latest edition.